

The Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3

Part 4

Introduction: Two weeks ago, in our study of Daniel we listened to a conversation between Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel's three friends. Daniel's friends refused to bow and to worship the golden image that the king had set up and therefore they were brought before the king by jealous Babylonians. The king explained that he would give them another chance to Submit but they refused the offer.

Notice Daniel 3:13-18

We considered a very important point here in our last study. These men submitted to the will of God without knowing what God would do in this situation. Too many times, believers want to make a deal with God. They tell Him they will submit to His will if they get what they want or if the situation goes the way they desire. We are not called to bargain with God, but we are called to submit to His will even when we do not know what the outcome will be.

These three men could have attempted to justify compromise in this situation. They could have reasoned that they were more helpful to their fellow Jews alive rather than dead. They could have reasoned that everyone else bowed down. But compromise was not a thought. They knew what the Law said and they would not go against the Word of God.

Exodus 20:2-5

² *I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.*

³ *Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*

⁴ *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.*

⁵ *Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;*

These three young men had been invested in by their parents and that which they were taught was now what they were living. We could say that the parents were gaining interest on their investments with the three young men.

Faith Tested by Fire

Part 3

Notice Daniel 3:19-22

The king was a man who had great problems with his anger. When the men refused to bow down and worship the king became so angry that he ordered the furnace to be heated 7 times hotter. There was no reason for this. It was already hot enough that anyone thrown in would die. The command to heat it 7 times hotter cost the king his best military men for they died when they came near the fire. There are several thoughts to see here.

1. The promise of God.

Genesis 12:3

³ *And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*

The men who cast them into the fire experienced the promise of Genesis 12:3. We have considered it many times, but we need to be reminded, Israel has stood at the grave of every one of their enemies.

2. The cost of anger.

Nebuchadnezzar lost his best military men all due to the fact that he could not control his anger. He saw himself as the greatest ruler in the world at this time but he was blinded to the fact that his sin ruled over him.

Application:

Anger has cost many people far more than they desired to pay. Moses was one such man.

Numbers 20:7-12

⁷ *And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,*

⁸ *Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt*

bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.

⁹ And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him.

¹⁰ And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?

¹¹ And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.

*¹² And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, **therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.***

Moses would later ask God to allow him to lead Israel into the land.

Deuteronomy 3:23-27

²³ And I besought the LORD at that time, saying,

²⁴ O Lord GOD, thou hast begun to shew thy servant thy greatness, and thy mighty hand: for what God is there in heaven or in earth, that can do according to thy works, and according to thy might?

²⁵ I pray thee, let me go over, and see the good land that is beyond Jordan, that goodly mountain, and Lebanon.

²⁶ But the LORD was wroth with me for your sakes, and would not hear me: and the LORD said unto me, Let it suffice thee; speak no more unto me of this matter.

²⁷ Get thee up into the top of Pisgah, and lift up thine eyes westward, and northward, and southward, and eastward, and behold it with thine eyes: for thou shalt not go over this Jordan.

Moses would eventually walk in the promised land, but he was not the one who would lead Israel in, but instead it would be Joshua. From Nebuchadnezzar and from Moses we can clearly see the cost of uncontrolled anger.

3. The future suffering of the Jews.

As these three men were cast into the furnace I am reminded of the furnaces and the gas chambers that the Jews would face under Hitler. The Jews in Daniel 3 were under the chastening hand of God because of sin. Not the three young men, but it was the sin of the nation that brought upon them the trials that they were facing. But was about the Jews under Hitler? I believe there are two reasons.

a. It was an attempt by Satan to exterminate the Jews.

Revelation 12:13-17

¹³ And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

¹⁴ And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

¹⁵ And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

¹⁶ And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

¹⁷ And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

This is the Tribulation and we clearly see the hatred of Satan toward the Jews. There is yet another reason that plays into the Holocaust.

b. The chastening of God.

Leviticus 26:14-19

¹⁴ But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments;

¹⁵ And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant:

¹⁶ I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.

¹⁷ And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you.

¹⁸ And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.

¹⁹ And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass:

Deuteronomy 28:15, 25-26, 48-50

¹⁵ But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

²⁵ The LORD shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them: and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth.

²⁶ And thy carcase shall be meat unto all fowls of the air, and unto the beasts of the earth, and no man shall fray them away.

⁴⁸ Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.

⁴⁹ The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand;

⁵⁰ A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young:

Now let us notice something that was said to Pilate when he wanted to release Jesus.

Matthew 27:22-25

²² Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.

²³ And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified.

²⁴ When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.

²⁵ Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.

This statement in verse 25 invoked the judgment of God upon these Jews and all their offspring. One of the consequences was the Holocaust.

Conclusion:

We will get back to this next week. As I close let me remind all of us that sometimes even when we are walking in fellowship with the Lord, it is His will that we go through the fires of life.

1 Peter 1:3-7

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

⁴ To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

⁵ Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶ Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be {It is needful}, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

⁷ That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: